

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. In September 1947 a Soviet tug, the BAIKAL, was sunk by an explosion on the Danube near Komarom. The incident was kept secret, which suggests sabotage, although it was probably caused by a mine. Some fatalities occurred.
2. At about the same time and place a Hungarian tug, the TAS, hit a magnetic mine outside the main channel.
3. Toward the end of October the Russians held an exercise of the Danube Patrol below Galati. A Russian admiral was in charge. Approximately 40 or 50 boats, of which some were German R-Boats, six or eight motor-vessels such as flotilla tenders and supply ships, and three river monitors took part. A good deal of practice firing at targets on the banks took place.
4. A new channel from Sulina Mouth 180° eight miles then 135°, has been swept of moored mines by the Soviet and Romanian Navies. As of 15 November 1947 the channel was used only by wooden ships.
5. The Soviets returned two "Sherid" class gunboats to the Romanians recently to be used as fast minesweepers.
6. At Galati the Romanians are building two motor tanker barges of 600 to 700 tons, believed to be for reparations. Both have been launched but were still being completed on 15 November. They are of wide beam, about eight meters, small draft, with twin rudders.
7. A number of tug-boats are being built at Galati.
8. The Romanian destroyer MABAȘTI and two gunboats are under repair at Galati. Four Danube motor-ships are being built there.
9. At Braila a Soviet merchant ship of about 5,000 tons, which appears to have been raised, is awaiting repair.

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